

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

(formed 1926)



NEWSLETTER 2011

1. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011

PRESIDENT - A.A. Hurst B.A. (Hons)

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

R. Arnold
A.P.W.W. Bowen
H.P. Briggs
H.W. Browne C.B.E.
A.J. Burroughs
Dr. P.L.P. Clarke
R.T. Darvell
D.A. Day
Major G. Fey
J.H.D. Fozard
N.C. Kelleway
A.L. Murray
M. Wren

CHAIRMAN - A.J. Baker, MA

HON. SECRETARY - E. Ward, B.A. (Hons)

HON. TREASURER - C.R.N. Taylor, FCA

HON. ASST. SEC. - R. Arnold

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

A.J. Burroughs
R.T. Darvell
J. Harrison (Editor)
Father J. McCollough
T.W. Birdseye, JP
Jonathon Duell (School Head Boy),
or his Deputy

HON. AUDITOR - A.R. Millman

Hon. Sec. - Elliott Ward, B.A. (Hons.)

137 Kiln Road, Benfleet, SS7 1SH

Telephone - 01702 554697, Mobile - 07941 187894 (*preferred*)

E-mail: owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

2. A.G.M. - THURSDAY 14TH JULY 2011 - 8:00 PM AT SCHOOL

**3. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2011
7:00 PM FOR 7:45PM AT WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS
DETAILS ON PAGE 3.**

CONTENTS

1. Officers & Committee 2010 - 2011.
2. Annual General Meeting, Thursday 14th July 2011, 8:00 pm at School.
3. O.W.A Annual Reunion Dinner, Friday 16th September 2011 - 7:00 pm for 7:45 pm at School. (Please arrive at 6:30 pm if you wish to look around the School.) Old Boys who left in 1991 and 1971 are especially welcome. Details and reply slips on page 3.
4. (i) Honorary Secretary - Elliott Ward
(ii) Retiring Secretary - Terry Birdseye.
(iii) New Members.
(iv) Donations.
5. Honorary Treasurer:
Income and Expenditure Accounts for year ended 31st March 2010.
6. President.
7. Chairman.
8. In Memoriam.
9. Obituaries.
10. News of and from Old Westcliffians.
11. Old Westcliffian Lodge No. 5456.
12. Westcliff Rugby Football Club.
13. Editor.
14. (i) The Old Westcliffian Association
(ii) OWA application form - Please use or use details for members you know who may wish to join.

NB: *All articles for next year's Newsletter should be received by our Honorary Secretary by the end of March 2012.*

J.H.

3. O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2011

OLD BOYS WHO LEFT IN 1991 AND 1971 ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.

7:00 PM FOR 7:45 PM AT
WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS
(Please arrive at 6:30 pm if you wish to look around the School.)

COST £26 (£15 FOR STUDENTS IN FULL TIME EDUCATION)
TICKETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED

DRESS - LOUNGE SUIT, ASSOCIATION TIE (£6, Available from Hon. Sec.)

MENU

Smoked Salmon, Lemon Sole and Crayfish Terrine

OR

**Roast Loin of Pork with Apple Sauce,
Sage and Onion, Yorkshire Pudding
Seasonal Vegetables**

OR

Summer Berry Cheese Cake

OR

Cheese Board

OR

Tea or Coffee

OR

(Vegetarian Meal available on request)

✂

REPLY SLIP: **O.W.A. ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2011**

FROM: Name:

Address:

Postcode: Phone:

TO: **ELLIOTT WARD - 137 KILN ROAD, BENFLEET, ESSEX, SS7 1SH**

TELEPHONE : 07941 187894

PLEASE RESERVE PLACE(S) FOR :

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR DATES AT SCHOOL</u>	<u>COST</u>
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)
.....	(.....)

TOTAL: £ _____

CHEQUE PAYABLE TO 'OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION'.

PLEASE INFORM SECRETARY IF A VEGETARIAN MEAL IS REQUIRED.

TO: HONORARY SECRETARY O.W.A. - ELLIOTT WARD

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

Careers Guidance Support Form

In a new venture for the Association we are setting up a careers advice network. The intention is that both current pupils and Old Boys can tap into the wealth of knowledge about careers and universities held by us, the membership of the OWA. Those seeking advice will be able to search anonymised data and then submit pertinent questions for direction to the appropriate alumni by an intermediary at the School. In order to set up and sustain the network we are asking willing Old Boys to supply a brief resume of their career history below, or alternatively at www.tinyurl.com/OWACareers.

Name:

Years at WHSB:

University, Subject, Degree Level, Dates 1:

.....
.....

University, Subject, Degree Level, Dates 2:

.....
.....

Profession(s)

.....

Email Address:

By signing below I consent for these data be kept on record and be used solely to match those seeking careers advice with those offering it.

Signed: Date:

4. (i) HONORARY SECRETARY

It is a privilege to be the Honorary Secretary elect and I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Terry for his years of service to the Association. I look forward to continuing to work with him across a period of transition and wish him well as he spends more time in Kent in the coming years.

The Old Westcliffian Association has a long history of which it should be proud. This does not however mean that we should not look to the future. We must seek to make the Association a body that every boy leaving the School wants to join and maintain ties with throughout his life. In order so to do we must build on the links and events we already enjoy, while also utilising technology and new ideas where they will help us to gain more from an Old Boys network which has long since spanned the globe.

At last year's Annual General Meeting we discussed how to go about reinvigorating the Association. It has been some time in the gestation but we are keen now to start putting those plans into action. As you can see from the invitation to the annual dinner, we have decided to really encourage alumni to use it as an opportunity to get together with old friends and catch-up on life since leaving Westcliff.

To add a sense of celebration to the annual dinner we are encouraging those who left in 1991 and 1971 to contact fellow Westcliffians in their year to form up a group and come along. This emphasis on those who left twenty and forty years ago is by no means an effort to put off other year groups: you are warmly welcomed this as any other year and I look forward to seeing you there.

In a new venture we are setting up a careers guidance network. This is in light of the School's responsibilities towards its students, the current competitive job market and the wealth of information about careers and universities known by us alumni. It will be available to current students and alumni to ask specific questions about careers or university courses in which they have a real interest. All communication will be through an intermediary at the School. If you would like to offer your knowledge please complete and return the enclosed form (*on page 5*) or fill it out here: www.tinyurl.com/OWACareers

Finally, if you would like to be kept updated on Association news and what is happening at the School in 140 characters or fewer then follow our new Twitter feed @OldWestcliffian.

I look forward to serving the Association.

Elliott Ward

4. (ii) RETIRING SECRETARY - TERRY BIRDSEYE

I am pleased to report that the Association is in good heart with robust finances thanks, in no small way, to the generosity of all those members who have sent contributions over the last few years.

Thank you to all those members who have written to me, some from overseas. It is always good to hear from you and your letters have been published in this newsletter.

Over the years we have lost touch with about 1200 members. This year we are going to send one last letter to their last known addresses to cleanse the database and to see if we can engender any responses.

Please try and support the Annual Dinner on 16th September. The speaker this year will be Derek Wyatt, ex-MP for Sheppey. They are always convivial occasions with an opportunity to catch up with old friends whom you may have lost touch with. The application form is on page 3.

Please also try to support the AGM on 14th July, at which I shall be stepping down as Secretary having completed eleven years. I have enjoyed my time in this roll and have considered it an honour to serve the Association. I feel, however, that it is time for younger generations to take the helm particularly in an age of ever burgeoning technology. My successor will be Elliott Ward, Head Boy in 2005/6, whom I know will make a splendid Secretary. I offer him my very best wishes and I will support him as best I can.

Lastly, I offer my thanks to Andrew Baker and the Committee for their help and support and to you, the members for your continuing involvement to make our Association successful.

Terry Birdseye

4.(iii) NEW MEMBERS

J. Ansell 03-10
J. Barnett 00-07
C.G. Bareham 53-59
D.A. Berris 06-08
D. Booth 03-10
A. Brown 59-64
Z. Burrows 03-10
S. Chesher 03-10
O. Chorton 01-08
J. Clark 03-10
J. Cochran 03-10
D. Dar 77-83
J. Dayer 03-10
C. Doherty 03-10
R. Donovan 03-10
P. Edwards 73-80
V. Hales 58-62
N. Hawkins 02-10
A. Holliday 03-10
L. Hooker
J. Hopkins 03-10
M. Huband 03-10
Rt. Hon. Lord J. Hutton
N. Jagers

R. Jones 03-10
R. Kent 03-10
A. Kenyon 03-10
M. King 46-52
C. Kneller 03-10
A. Lanz-Johnson 03-10
M. Lim 03-10
A. Kothari 03-10
C.N. Mayfield 47-52
S. Moore 03-10
S. Onaeko 03-10
D. Reeder 03-10
F. Reynolds 03-10
N. Roskams 69-76
M. Schormans 03-10
D. Sharod 99-06
M. Skelly (*Staff, Deputy Headmaster*)
L. Toumbas
A. Towler-Tinlin 05-10
H. Tresidder 03-10
R. Wheeler 03-10
A. Wilson 03-10
D. Wyatt 03-10
Total 47

4.(iv) DONATIONS 2009-2010

A.J. Ashby
A. Atkinson
D.W. Baldock
R.J.M. Baldock
C.G. Bareham
G.J. Bentley
B.R. Bishop
A. Brown
G. Brown
G.B. Brown
Dr P.L.P. Clarke
B. Coker
T. Collin
R.A.B. Crowe
J.M. Dawson
C. Dixon
M. Dolman
D. Donald
N.J. Eliasson
D. Evans

D.A. Evans
G.W.J Fey
C. George
C. Gowland
R. Grant
R.J.M. Gregory
J. Harrison
G. Hogben
C.F. Hudgkins
L. Hooker
D. Jameson
M. King
P.J. King
C.J. Lane
G. Lazell
G. Light
Prof. Dr. K.M. MacKinnon
Father J.K. McCollough
J. McDavid
C.N. Mayfield

D. Powell
R.F.B. Powell
His Hon. G. Rice
B. Riley
D.S. Row
B. Scarsbrook
D. Sherringham
G.W. Simonds
Dr. J. Wells
J Weston
I.J. Whitfield
G.A. Wiffen
R.F. Wilkins

5. HONORARY TREASURER

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2010

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>
INCOME			
Life subscriptions	170		180
Interest received	4		167
Profit on ties etc	99		102
Donations / raffle	631		779
Surplus on function	124		708
	<hr/>	1,028	<hr/>
			1,936
EXPENDITURE			
Printing, postage & stationary	560		1032
Sundry expenses	45		70
	<hr/>	605	<hr/>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£ 423	£ 834
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>
ASSETS			
Stock of ties	708		401
Cash at bank	167		141
Cash at building society	8,543		8,453
	<hr/>		<hr/>
NET ASSETS	£ 9,418		£ 8,995
	<hr/>		<hr/>
FINANCED BY			
General fund brought forward	8,995		8,161
Surplus for the year	423		834
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£ 9,418		£ 8,995
	<hr/>		<hr/>

C.R.N. Taylor, FCA
Honorary Treasurer

A.R. Millman, FCA
Independent Examiner

6. PRESIDENT

As I move towards the close of my fourth and final year as President I thank the Association very much for the opportunities it has given me, and the honour that it bestowed. I look forward to the term of our new President, David Norman whom I knew from schooldays and have known since. He has always been a supporter of the school, serves upon the Governing body and, the electorate being willing, will become Mayor of Southend during the course of this year. David's achievements in rising to a very high position in a national union and in the public work that he has carried out, both in this town and in Oxford over many years, make him a credit to the school and a fine President for our Association.

Our long serving secretary, Terry Birdseye is standing aside. He has been the bedrock of our association for many years. Without his diligent and time consuming support one would have feared for the future of the Association. I know all will wish him well in the new direction that I am sure he will wish to take.

In the past year the annual dinner was a great success. We were pleased to have Old Westcliffian former Cabinet Minister John Hutton to speak to us. The attendance was over 100 and the highest for a number of years. I believe the occasion was enjoyed by all who attended and gave the opportunity to meet very old friends after so many missed years.

I wish to thank the Committee members of the Association for the steady support that they give. In particular Jim Harrison for the enormous devotion that he gives to the production of the news letter and in every other regard.

I say farewell as your President but hope to continue to see many of you both at the annual dinner and at other events and occasions throughout the year.

Alan A. Hurst

7. CHAIRMAN

WESTCLIFF BECOMES AN ACADEMY SCHOOL

On 1 September 2010, Westcliff became one of just thirty-two Schools in the country and one of four Grammar Schools to convert to Academy Status. The Coalition Government on coming to power in May had made it clear that applications for Academy Status from Schools with an OFSTED designation *Outstanding* would be welcome. I felt, as did the Governing Body, that to move swiftly to take Academy Status would serve the best interests of the School and I was confident that, as with Grant Maintained Status which we held from 1991 to 1999, we could turn this decisively to the School's advantage. I wanted us to be there as a leader and not a straggler. So it proved.

Academy Schools have been much touted as 'Independent Schools'. It all depends on what you mean. We now have greater latitude over the curriculum we teach, the way the School day is organized and over the Pay & Conditions of Service of members of staff. In each of these areas, to follow differentially a national system is not necessarily to serve the best interests of pupils in a Grammar School. I hope that in due course, and after full consultation with staff, we shall be able to explore these new opportunities and turn them decisively to the advantage of the School.

But becoming an Academy does not mean that we become a fee-paying School and neither does it mean that we become detached from other Schools in the local area. We shall continue to play our part in the local Education Service just as, most importantly, we shall remain a Grammar School. Our essential purpose will remain to promote the personal and intellectual development of young people and in particular male adolescents. We must continue to attract and retain teachers with a deep knowledge of their own subject and the ability to communicate an enthusiasm for the same to young people. We shall continue to promote engagement in the life of the School and the wider community as something good in itself and we shall encourage students not to see life as something which is entirely self-regarding but to understand our responsibilities to others and our duty to contribute to the well-being of the broader community.

We also hope that, as an Academy, and without any assumption of superiority, we shall be able to be of assistance to some other School or Schools within the local community. For the Academies designated in September are indeed expected to work with others in more challenging circumstances. This we shall be happy to do although, at the time of writing, the precise direction in which that broader commitment will be expressed is not known.

As an Academy, we receive an enhancement in revenue funding in recognition of the loss of Local Authority services. Our per capita funding has increased by around 11% but we shall need to use a part of that additional revenue to 'buy back' from the Local Authority services such as payroll or personnel we may wish to perpetuate. For me, the essential argument for Academy Status relates not to an enhancement of income but to the wider managerial freedom we enjoy. We are conscious, however, that any substantial movement to Academy Status across the Authority (and the Government is now encouraging all Schools to become Academies) can only serve to divert educational funding from the Authority to Schools and in this in turn only raises the question of the form in which the Local Authority will continue.

Governors have considered the direction we hope to take as an Academy and on our present agenda for consideration are 'scholarships' to encourage students threatened by financial hardship to remain in full-time education, the provision of Easter Revision courses for public examination classes, enhancing facilities for the Sixth Form and for ICT, becoming a provider for training courses for other teachers, exploring other and perhaps more demanding alternative examinations to GCSE and Advanced Levels (such as the iGCSE and the International Baccalaureate) and expanding our community-related programmes to those who are not members of the School and outside the School day.

In short, the transition to Academy Status is no small undertaking and represents a significant stage in the School's development. It has come to us because of the distinction we enjoy through four *Outstanding* OFSTED Inspections and the culture we have built through having a strong instinct for the management of our own affairs. I am confident that staff and Governors together will continue to respond imaginatively and creatively to the opportunities Academy Status affords. We have gone into this with our eyes open and we have seen in it something which will enable us to strengthen still further the best traditions of this School. Stay with us for the journey. The old School -its traditions, ethos and values - remain. It has simply been given a different name, a fresh branding and company status.

A J Baker
December 2010

8. IN MEMORIAM

Barry J Bridge (<i>aged 79</i>)	09/12/2009
Geoffrey Crawley	November 2010
R.A. Crowe	
T.C. Curl	March 1992
Father Gordon Godfrey	1923 - 2006
Robert H. Hardie	22/03/1935-24/05/2010
Ian Hoskison	Oct. 1935 - Jan. 2010
James Lowe (<i>aged 62</i>)	24/05/2010
Victor Stanley Lowen	1928 - 30/11/2010
Ken Ray	
Peter William Robson (<i>aged 82</i>)	20/12/2010
Ian Rule	22/02/2011
M.J. Smedley (<i>aged 78</i>)	17/12/1931-02/11/2010
Canon G.P. Smith	
Kenneth J.W. Taylor	1932 - 2003
R.E. Thornton	
R.C. Webb	2008
Anthony James Webster (<i>aged 82</i>)	05/12/2010

All will be sadly missed.

9. OBITUARIES

*Barry J. Bridge
Geoffrey Crawley
Father Gordon Godfrey
Robert Henry Hardie
Ian Hoskison
James Lowe
Ian Rule
Michael J. Smedley
Kenneth J.W. Taylor*

BARRY J. BRIDGE

(09/12/2009)

Thank you for your letter dated 24 May 2010 addressed to my late father Barry. I regret to advise that he passed away last year on 9 December 2009 at the age of 79 years following a motor vehicle accident.

As far as I am aware he had remained a member of the Old Westcliffian Association

ever since we left the UK as a migrant family in 1968 and loved his rugby. Woe betide any member of the family foolish enough to try to interrupt him whenever he was watching his recordings of a televised international rugby game. I have fond memories of my Dad taking my brother and I as small children to the Old Westcliffian Association Clubrooms every weekend and being given half a crown each which we could convert to five six-pences apiece to then deposit into the fruit machine that was there. I recall on one occasion winning a five pound jackpot on same but was then required to concede some of my winnings towards the purchase of a jug of beer which I then took around the Clubrooms topping up the glasses of all the members who were present at the time. I was told by my Father that to do so was a Clubroom tradition but I may have been easily fooled in those days !

I note you have an "In Memoriam" section of your newsletter and would greatly appreciate it if you would be kind enough to place a note of his passing in your next available newsletter for anyone who may remember my Dad during his school and playing days and afterwards, as a long-time member of the Association. If you are able to do so and would be kind enough to send me a printed copy (or if not, an email version would be fine) I would like to keep it amongst the other fond memories the family has of him.

Kind regards
Adam Bridge

GEOFFREY CRAWLEY

(November 2009)

Journalist famed for solving hoax

(Echo 11/11/10: by Katy Islip: katy.islip@nqe.com)

A SCIENTIFIC journalist who finally exposed one of the world's longest-running photographic hoaxes has died at the age of 83.

Geoffrey Crawley, who grew up in Southend and Leigh, finally proved to the world that the infamous Cottingley Fairies pictures, which appeared to show fairies and gnomes frolicking with two young girls, were faked.

Taken between 1917 and 1920, the snaps appeared to show Yorkshire cousins Frances Griffiths, ten, and Elsie Wright, 13, surrounded by fantastical creatures and kept the world guessing for more than 60 years.

Their final unmasking came in 1982 at the hands of Mr Crawley, then editor of the British Journal of Photography magazine, after he demonstrated in a series of articles that the pictures had to be a hoax.

The two women behind the pictures confessed the pictures had indeed been faked after the pair cut illustrations from a book and propped them up with hairpins.

Mr Crawley, a former Westcliff High School for Boys pupil who went on to study at Cambridge University, enjoyed a long and distinguished career and continued to work up until his final illness.

He leaves his wife, Carolyn, and their son.

FATHER GORDON GODFREY

(1923 - 2006)

Gordon Anthony Godfrey was born at Ilford on 9 December 1923. He had a twin brother, Peter. Baptised as an Anglican, he grew up in Leigh-on-Sea and was educated at Westcliff High School for Boys. During the Second World War he served with the Royal Navy (1941 -1945) on coastal minesweepers. After demobilisation he worked as a clerk in a bank in the city. In December 1947 Gordon Godfrey was received into the Catholic Church by Father Fergus Saurin, curate to Canon Gilbert at Leigh-on-Sea. A major inspiration for this decision was the good example of Catholic colleagues he had met while serving in the Royal Navy and with whom he had kept in touch after the war. He became an altar server at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-

on-Sea.

Gordon accepted as a student for the priesthood:

Having discerned a possible vocation to the priesthood under the guidance of Canon Gilbert, he applied to the Diocese of Brentwood. In August 1949 Bishop Beck, then Coadjutor to, the ailing Bishop Doubleday, accepted him for training as a clerical student. He studied at Campion House, Osterley, the Jesuit college for late vocations, from September 1949 to June 1951. In due course he transferred to the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, Paris, where he was a student from September 1951 to June 1956 (and where for the latter part of his course one of his fellow seminarians was the future Bishop Thomas McMahon).

In a letter to Bishop Beck written a few weeks after his arrival at Saint-Sulpice, Gordon Godfrey noted 'the wonderful spirit of prayer and recollection here. Everything is calculated to bring the student into closer contact with Our Divine Lord, and if one enters fully into this life of prayer, the result can be one of profound peace and happiness.' He also told the bishop that he was very impressed with 'this fine city' of Paris.

Father Cordon ordained:

After completing his studies in Paris, and by now aged thirty-two, Gordon Godfrey was ordained to the priesthood at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea (together with the late Father John Kennedy) by Bishop Wall on 1 July 1956. As an Assistant Priest he served at Leyton (1956-1957) and was then appointed as Secretary to Bishop Wall (1957-1958).

This was followed by appointments as Assistant Priest at Manor Park (1958-1960) - when, famously, the 1959 Brentwood Diocesan Directory reversed Father Godfrey and Canon Hurley to make it appear the latter was the curate! - Hainault (1960-1961) and Tilbury (1961 -1962). At Tilbury Father Godfrey was back among ships and seafarers, and so it was quite fitting that, given his naval background, his next appointment was to serve for a year with the Apostleship of the Sea as Assistant

Port Chaplain at Anchor House, Canning Town, before moving to Chadwell Heath as Assistant Priest for a few months from November 1963 to January 1964, followed by a similar appointment at Southend-on-Sea until July 1965. His final curacy was served at the Most Holy Redeemer, Harold Hill,

Father Gordon becomes a Parish Priest:

Father Godfrey also served as Chaplain to the Catholic Boy Scouts in Essex, having himself been a scout and a scout leader in his youth. Yet by any standards, these early years as a priest had been punctuated by a great number of moves from one parish to another (nine appointments in ten years). Indeed, in later life, when filling out forms in preparation for episcopal visitations, Father Godfrey, in response to the question asking where he had served appointments as a curate, would write: 'There were so many I can't remember. They should be listed in the Diocesan Archives!' The years of packing and unpacking suitcases were followed by times of greater stability as, in July 1966, Father Godfrey embarked upon his first appointment as a Parish Priest, He was sent to Canvey Island, where he remained for eight years. Thereafter he served as Parish Priest at Hutton (1974-1979), Rochford (1979-1988) and Dunmow (1988-2006).

Service to the people of Dunmow:

Father Godfrey served the Catholics of Dunmow and Hatfield Broad Oak for eighteen years. He also acted as Chaplain to the Catholic pupils and staff at Felsted School, was a regular visitor to St Mary's Catholic High School, Bishops Stortford, where many of the secondary age pupils from his parish were educated, and in 1997 served as Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Essex. He celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priestly ordination in July 2006. Two months later, on 27 September 2006, having been admitted for replacement heart valve surgery, Father Godfrey died in the London Independent Hospital, Stepney Green. He was three months short of his eighty-third birthday. Father Godfrey's Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop Thomas at the Church of Our Lady &

St Anne Line, Dunmow, on 6 October 2006, followed by interment in Great Dunmow Cemetery.

Having suffered a heart attack at Rochford in 1986, Father Godfrey did not always enjoy the best of health in his years at Dunmow. However, he never allowed indifferent health to hinder his pastoral zeal, and he became a well-respected figure in the town and was greatly esteemed by his parishioners. On one occasion in recent years a friend of the present writer was visiting the Dunmow area with his wife and attended Sunday Mass there. After Mass, being visitors to the parish, the couple were made very welcome by Father Godfrey, who engaged them in a lively conversation for some time before moving on to speak to his own parishioners. Dressed in his cassock and biretta, Father Godfrey reminded my friend and his wife of a modern-day Curé of Ars - a kindly priest in a country parish, attentive to his flock and yet making the stranger welcome.

A passion for ships, trams... and model building:

Father Godfrey was renowned for his passion for ships, trams, buses and trains. In the garden of the Presbytery at Dunmow he built a miniature steam railway modelled on a line in North Wales - the present writer, while supplying at Dunmow on one occasion, was told by the housekeeper that Father Godfrey 'got steam up on Mondays!' - and was once heard to remark at a clergy gathering that should the bishop wish to move him from Dunmow to another parish consideration would have to be given to the re-positioning of his track and rolling-stock! Gordon Godfrey was also a skilled maker of models, especially boats and trains, and had a large collection of books covering various aspects of transport. He was very knowledgeable on the history of trains and buses, especially in London and Essex, and could give a detailed description of all the local branch lines axed by the Beeching cuts of the 1960s.

His brother's tribute:

At Father Godfrey's funeral the following trib-

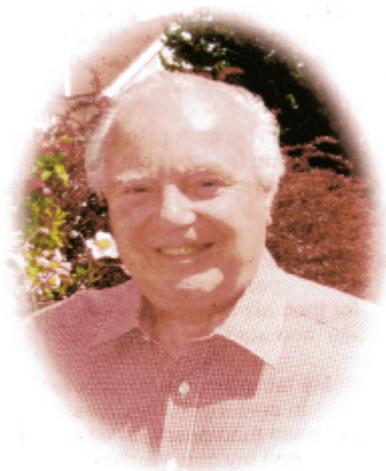
ute was paid by his twin brother, Peter:

'It is a privilege for me to be here in order to thank you all for your loving support towards my dear twin brother who recognised many years ago that his vocation and joy in life was to become a Catholic priest. This was paramount in his heart and he gave or himself completely to achieve this goal. But Gordon was no stick-in-the-mud. He loved life and enjoyed holidays, driving his car, good food, and model-making, to which he devoted meticulous care. He was quite a colourful character and young at heart. As boys we enjoyed a carefree and somewhat happy childhood. Occasionally he would lead me astray in some kind of mischief in which I was delighted to take part and share the blame afterwards for our wrongdoing... In conclusion may I say that Gordon loved you all... May our Dear Lord welcome him home with the words "Well Done".'

Indeed, 'Well done, good and faithful Servant'.

ROBERT H. HARDIE

(22/03/1935 - 24/05/2010, at School 1946-51)



Robert (Rob) died on 24th May shortly after reaching his 75th birthday and golden wedding anniversary, following a long battle with the "Big C".

On leaving Westcliff he joined The London Hospital (Whitechapel) in the Biochemis-

try Laboratories where he returned for a short time after National Service (1955/57) in the RAF Medical Corps. A subsequent change of career resulted in his joining Lloyds Bank where, following a number of postings and appointments, he retired as Senior Manager of their Training College at Hindhead.

In retirement, Rob and his wife, Jean, returned to Southend where they became staunch members of the congregation at Holy Trinity Church, Southchurch, with Rob becoming church warden on several occasions, a lay administrator of communion and a server at the altar.

Other interests included photography (3D), computers, clocks (long case variety). He was also a trustee, technician and reader for the Southend Branch of the Talking Newspaper for the Blind for many years.

He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

IAN HOSKISON

(Oct. 1935 - Jan. 2010)



I found a copy of the Old Westcliffian Association Newsletter in my father's effects.

He was an old boy of your school and very proud of it. I am not certain about the dates he attended, but he was born in October 1935. I would love it if you would be able to publish something in remembrance of him?

My father was a remarkable man (I am sure all those who have lost a loved one say so) but he really did achieve international standing in

his field of Marine Salvage. After serving his apprenticeship as an engineer in the merchant navy and joining P&O, he left the UK in 1960 and lived in Australia for 10 years. He went on to establish a shipping and towage business in Fiji and later a marine salvage operation which distinguished itself in the greater South Pacific region over a number of decades.

My Dad died in January 2010 of mesothelioma – asbestos related lung cancer contracted during his days in ships' engine rooms. He was 74 and otherwise fit and living a happy retirement in Fiji. He visited the UK often and was in touch with a number of mates from his day in Leigh on Sea.

I have attached a photo of my father taken in recent years.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,
Julie Hoskison

JAMES LOWE
(24/05/2010)

James Lowe (J.J. Lowe I believe) attended Westcliff from 1960 - 1965. He left after his "O" levels to work at Customs and Excise in Southend, and stayed with them, moving from time to time to other departments but basically he worked for them till he took early retirement.

He was a close friend of mine at Westcliff and we kept in touch for many years together with other school pals. Steve Rawlinson, Geoff Haslehurst and other friends from outside Westcliff. However I stopped attending the annual get-togethers as I couldn't stand the smoky atmosphere (most of the others inc. Jim smoked a lot!) Of course moving to Austria some 5+ years ago didn't help. However we still kept in touch at Christmas and we usually included an update with our cards.

I was informed at the beginning of March last year that Jim was admitted to Queens hospital Romford with a tumour on

his spine in the neck region. After an operation to remove it the surgeon was unable to remove all the tumour and Jim still became paralysed down one side. After testing, the tumour was found to be secondary. They never did find the primary and Jim finally died after fighting all the way on 9th May. His funeral was on 24th May 2010 . I can't remember his birthday but he either was or would have been 62. He had no children as far as I know.

Brian Meddle

IAN RULE
(22/02/2011)

Ian entered Westcliff in 1953 and completed his A levels in 1960 when he was deputy head boy. Although not a natural sportsman he enjoyed his time in the 3rd XV under Mr Ron Coates.

From school he joined the British South African Police in Southern Rhodesia and stayed with them until 1964 when he married Pam. During that time he was a frequent letter writer and through these managed to depict a life style that was so completely different to anything that had occurred in Essex.

In 1964 he joined Shell Petroleum but left the company when it moved to Zambia in 1968 due the effects of UDI. Subsequently he became a manager in the Government irrigation service which involved working in some of the hottest and most desolate areas of Rhodesia. During this time the civil war began in 1972 and Ian threw in his lot with the UDI forces on a part-time basis. He served in the Police Anti-Terrorist unit which involved operating on a clandestine basis. Having survived some very dangerous events he was unbelievably lucky to survive an aircraft crash in 1980 when his plane hit a hill covered by cloud.

Sometime later he became the manager of a crocodile and ostrich farm in Chiredzi where he remained until 1995. At this time he became what was likely to have been the first Westcliffian to have a heart transplant. He received this new heart in South Africa but subsequently

found the political situation increasingly difficult and the cost of anti-rejection drugs in Zimbabwe to be prohibitive and returned to Thorpe Bay some years later.

Ian died of lung cancer in Southend on 22nd February 2011 and will be remembered as a man who had a zest for life and adventure. He will be sadly missed by his family, wife Pam and sons Andrew and Donald and all who knew him.

Geoff Thompson

MICHAEL G. SMEDLEY

(17/12/1931-02/11/2010)

Mike was born in Penrith, Cumberland. His family moved to Leigh-on-Sea when Mike was about five years old where his father was a pharmacist. At the outbreak of war the Smedley family were evacuated to Stratford-upon-Avon where Mike went to the same school that William Shakespeare attended. Coincidentally on his mother's side Mike was related to Anne Hathaway. The family returned to Leigh before the end of the war and he started at Westcliff High School in September 1943.

In his studies Mike took the science route gaining his Higher School Certificate and Intermediate Bsc in six years. During his last year 1949-50 he took a crash course in biology and also served as school captain. He was a keen sportsman and was good at athletics and particularly rugby. Mike also enjoyed hacking round the golf course at Belfairs, introduced to the game by Parsonson and playing also with colleagues Ball, Gorton, Harper, Murray, Watkins and the writer.

Mike was awarded a scholarship to Cambridge where he studied medicine at St. Catharine's college. He enjoyed rowing and after obtaining his degree, clinical training followed at the Royal London Hospital. Here he continued his love of rugby, captaining the winning team in 1956 in the inter hospital competition. Mike married nurse Ann Palmer

in Horsham in 1957. Following a year as house surgeon, Mike became a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Navy during National Service where he was stationed in Malta, Cyprus and Singapore. He also went on Icelandic patrol.

After leaving the navy Mike worked again at the Royal London for a further twelve months before joining a general practice for four years in Brentwood. In 1966 Mike and Ann with their four young children travelled to New Zealand for a two year appointment in Hamilton. The two years became four at the Waikato hospital. In 1970 the family moved down the east coast of the South Island to South Canterbury where Mike accepted the position of obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Mike retired in 1992 because of ill health which was to plague him for all of his retirement. He died peacefully in Timaru. Many attended his funeral and he left memories with colleagues and patients alike of a caring, considerate, thoughtful and clever man. His wife survives him with their four children, Richard, Carol, Robert and Sue and their nine grandchildren.

Peter King
(WHSB 1943-50)

KENNETH J.W. TAYLOW

(1932 - 2003)

Kenneth J W Taylor, MD, PhD, FACP, was born in 1939 in the United Kingdom. He graduated B.Sc in Physiology at the London University in 1961 and M.B.B.S., Guy's Hospital, London University, in 1964. After graduation, he was house surgeon at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guilford, and later on senior house surgeon in Neurosurgery at the Guy's Maudsley Hospital in London. In 1972, he received his Ph. D., and in 1975, an M.D. degree from the London University.

In 1975, after finishing a Fellowship in Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine at the Royal

Marsden Hospital, London (1973-75), he moved to the Yale University School of Medicine in the United States to pursue further research and applications in diagnostic ultrasonography. He was appointed as a tenured professor of radiology at Yale in 1979. During his fellowship, he collaborated with David Carpenter, an engineer from George Kossoff's laboratory in Australia, developing gray scale apparatus and exploring the use of gray scale ultrasound in patients with cancer. With CR Hill and VR McCready the group published their experience with gray scale imaging in 1973 and demonstrated their version of the compound gray-scale contact scanner. His clinical work on the diagnosis of hepatobiliary disease using gray scale ultrasonography formed the basis for his MD thesis in 1975.

After his appointment in 1975 Kenneth Taylor founded the Yale-New Haven Hospital School of Diagnostic Ultrasound. The program was initiated by the hospital in response to an emerging need to train technologists to assist and support physicians in the new modality. Initially the program trained one to two students per year in general ultrasound. Over the last 25 years the program has grown to accept 10 students per year and has graduated over 150 students meeting the demands of the hospital and the community with highly trained, board eligible sonographers.

Kenneth Taylor was amongst the first to describe Doppler flow in the ovarian and uterine arteries in 1985. His many research interests included evaluation of the role of ultrasound in ovarian cancer screening and detection of vascularity in tumors by Doppler ultrasound. His visionary interests in promoting the use of ultrasound in the diagnosis of abdominal and pelvic disease also stimulated postgraduate medical specialists, and his students are now in practice in the United States, Europe, South America, Japan, and the Caribbean. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) since 1975 and a fellow of the American College of Physicians since 1981. He served on the editorial board of the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine from January 1992 to February

2003. He was the vice chair of the International Relations Committee (1993-1996) and then the chair of the International Relations Committee. In addition, he served on the Bioeffects Committee from 1993 to 1997. Teaching was his major love, both during the day-to-day practice of ultrasound and in lectures and conferences. He lectured worldwide and engendered great enthusiasm for the use of ultrasound.

Kenneth Taylor published more than 200 scientific papers. He was the author of numerous books on diagnostic ultrasound, including the ground-breaking "Atlas of Gray Scale Ultrasonography" in 1978. His books were widely published in the United States, South America, Europe, and Asia. His more recent interest was on Doppler ultrasound diagnosis and he had gained important grant support from the American Cancer Society and National Institutes of Health for his work on detection of tumor vascularity by Doppler ultrasound. He chaired the editorial committee of the Clinics in Diagnostic Ultrasound series from 1978 to 1994. He was also at the forefront of research in the clinical uses of Doppler ultrasound, collaborating with renowned physicists Peter Wells and Peter Burns and in publication of the successful textbook Clinical Application of Doppler Ultrasound in 1995.

He passed away in February 2003 in New Haven, Connecticut. He is survived by the daughter of his first marriage, Sally-Anne, his wife Caroline Taylor MD, and their son, Andrew.

10. NEWS OF AND FROM OLD WESTCLIFFIANS

GORDON BAREHAM

Thank you for the email and the envelope received today with the selection of past OWA magazines. I had a quick read through this morning but will read more thoroughly this evening. I will enjoy catching up and some of

the names mentioned I recall.

My vintage was 1953 - 59; the same time as Geoff [Sid] Thompson and Chris Sharples. Very briefly my potted history is I moved away from WoS in mid 1970s and after spells in Surrey and Warwickshire I ended up in Somerset where we have lived in different places for over 30 years. I am still unashamedly an Essex Man though. I retired last year after an interesting business career in manufacturing, initially as an engineer but ultimately in sales and marketing and general management. I retained my rugby and cricket interest by playing on until I was 37 and mid 40s respectively. I have resorted to golf nowadays which I enjoy in a frustrated way. I have followed the fortunes of Westcliff RFC over the years and anything connected with the school. I am a very proud Old Westcliffian and consider I was privileged to have attended such a good school.

I recall back in the late 1960s paying a Life Membership fee to Maurice Wren! Since then I have heard nothing but as I was a nomad in those early years, I can understand why communication ceased. I will gladly pay a new Life Membership and will send you a cheque for this and a tie in the post next week. I would like to try and get back to Westcliff for the September 2011 event as this would be a great chance to renew old acquaintances.

I am grateful to Sid for passing on my details. He lives in Exeter and I now live only 45 minutes away from him so we are planning to meet up again after not seeing each other for 40 plus years. A trip to watch Exeter Chiefs is on the agenda as well as a visit to watch Westcliff RFC in the new year. He contacted me through Chris Sharples.

Once again thank you for the contact. Now I am back in the OWA" fold " I will try and make contact with others. I had some great friends while at school who sadly I have lost touch with so it will be good to renew old friendships.

Kind regards,
Gordon.

JOHN BENFORD

I've always kept an eye out for the old school, and know some other local old boys well [particularly Howard Briggs, former Mayor of Southend and OWRC stalwart - with whom I sang for many years in a barbershop quartet, which you may have heard of (or not!)].

I have to admit to teaching at the rival establishment - Southend High for Boys - for over 30 years, until my recent retirement; there were, of course, several Old Westcliffians who did the same!

Anyway, I thought I would re-establish contact, and would be pleased to receive any email communications from the Association.

Yours sincerely,
John Benford
WHSB 1961-1968

NORMAN BOWLER

I joined in early 1939 when I left School. I remember that 'Daddy' Smith made sure that I didn't escape the net!

I must confess that since the War I only attended one (or maybe two) annual Dinners and met very few of my contemporaries, (many had been killed or left the District of course). As you would expect, I enjoyed the evening, particularly one of Henry Cloke's witty addresses. (I've always thought that he was a fine headmaster).

I'm glad that you still have my name on your list and would like to be kept in touch while I'm still around please (I'm ninety this year D. V!)

Very best wishes.
Yours sincerely
N.J.Bowler

GEOFFREY BROWN

I was particularly interested to read Godfrey Fey's letter as I, too, became a major, Royal Ar-

tillery, in the second World War. Early in 1939 I went down to the drill hall in York Road, Southend intending to join the Territorial Army field battery but found the coast battery was in occupation that evening so I joined them instead as a humble gunner. On 24th August 1939 I was called up and whisked across to the Isle of Grain where we manned, day and night, two 9.2 inch guns that could fire a 380 lb. shell over ten miles.

In June 1940 I had advanced to the rank of Bombardier (two stripes) and was Battery Commander's Assistant. One day we received a message from Intelligence saying they believed a German attack on the Essex coast was imminent. Paratroops would be dropped in the fields to the north of Westcliff and would rendezvous at the Westcliff High schools before securing the landing points for the main, seaborne, attack.

Knowing that I was an old Westcliffian, the B.C. asked me to pinpoint the schools on the map. Together, we worked out the bearing and range, then called out the duty watch to traverse the guns, which normally pointed down the estuary, to the required bearing and range to hit the schools. Having ensured that there was no obstruction in the line of fire we recorded them as our target and waited for the enemy to arrive. Had the Germans carried out their plan there is no doubt that we would have demolished both schools in a matter of minutes. I must say I had mixed feelings about that.

A month later I was sent to O.C.T.U and duly commissioned, serving first in the Orkneys and later on the coast of Devon and Cornwall where I eventually became Fire Commander, Falmouth with my observation post on Pendenis Castle where I lived for almost a year. As the threat of a German invasion receded, I was given a long course in field gunnery (25-pounders) which I thoroughly enjoyed and then went to India to join the 10th Field Regiment as acting second-in-command. While awaiting embarkation I spent a few days at the Royal Artillery Depot at Woolwich, like Godfrey Fey, and was served my meagre ration of soya sausage or Woolton pie in the splendour of the offi-

cers' mess, the tables groaning under the weight of the regiment's magnificent silver trophies.

Best wishes.
Yours sincerely,
Geoffrey Brown

DR P.L.P. CLARKE

I'm sorry I can't attend the Dinner on the 17th September. I was intending to make the journey but as it happens it coincides with our wedding anniversary.

One of the snags of retiring so far from one's previous existence is that one loses these opportunities to renew old acquaintances.

I always welcome the arrival of the Newsletter: £25 enclosed as a contribution.

By the way my son Simon, an OW of course, is now a professor at the University of Western Australia.

All best wishes,
Peter

JOHN COWAN

I should appreciate receiving the OWA newsletter by email.

I was at WHSB 1944-50, when the quads were still open to the elements and changing classrooms could be a cold business in the winter. I should be interested to have a photograph of the quadrangles as they were then.

Best wishes,
John

DAVID DONALD

Thank you for getting in touch. I moved here very rapidly as soon as a 'home' came avail-

able — we visited Swanage and fell for it completely — and our lives changed ‘completely’ as well!

My chief interest in the OW’s was the Rugby Club. I played down the levels and ended up chairing the selection committee before I finally ‘retired’.

This card is one of the ‘activities’ and I still do a great deal of painting and we ‘help’ with the local museum and Swanage Pier and have many friends from all these activities. None of which would have happened until we moved.

I hope the Associations are flourishing, I’m sure the Rugby Club is as well.

I’m afraid at my age I shall not be coming back for dinner etc, I don’t expect there would be many faces I knew!

Thanks again for writing — shall be watching Rugby’ this weekend!

Yours sincerely,
David Donald

DAVID EVENETT F.C.A.
(aged 78)

I arrived in England from India in 1946, where most of the Europeans departed prior to the 1947 Independence. I was 13½ and was put into form Upper 3x by the Headmaster (Mr Cloke).

I left school aged 16 in 1949 after School Cert. and was articled in a small firm of Chartered Accountants in the City — passed the final exams in 1954 and later specialised in Tax, working in BP and other large companies, finishing as a senior tax partner in Touche Ross (now Deloitte).

Unfortunately I live too far away to attend dinners. Best wishes and thanks again for the reminder letter.

Regards
David

MICHAEL C. FELTHAM

Memories of Another Age

Attending the Old Westcliffian Lodge meeting in the school hall in July this year, meant nostalgia was free to reign and memories flooded back.

Was it really 57 years ago that I first sat on the floor, legs crossed and behind on the parquet in short grey trousers, awed by the august presence of Henry Cloke MA. A stern visaged pedagogue, towering above his peers, and peering down at the gaggle of new boys with his Faustian eyebrows seeming to twitch in despair: and a gentleman we popularly referred to as "The Boot", or in moments of possessive familiarity perhaps simply as "Henry".

The hall looked so large then: it looked so small in July: I've obviously grown somewhat!

And the masters! A parade of characters and eccentricity.

"Moke" Morris: my first form master and geography master, who presented with a number of strange ideas: ramming a recalcitrant pupil's head in the old oak sliding desk and sitting on the lid: Billy The Bum Basher, Moke's favoured instrument of punishment; a strip of plywood enjoying a nail firmly pierced through the end. One was offered a choice: two plain or one nail. No one called his bluff.

Mr Chemistry Smith, also enjoying the threatening sobriquet of Black Harry: a demon with his outsize gym shoe when one erred; and the organiser of the Gardening Club: a rather unpleasant strip of ground which seemed to consist mainly of stodgy and glutinous clay. Well, it did, when sentenced to an hour's digging as a penance for somehow incurring BH's wrath.

Daddy Smith, the senior Mathematics master and a patriarchal figure. "Miggles" Midgely, who possessed an astounding baritone voice: only revealed at the celebrated Leaver's Supper.

H I Brown: the Senior History Master: a

sort of grey man and passionate over the past. Which came to a sort of explosive head when the local authority determined an ancient wattle and daub cottage, which sat in juxtaposition, between the bus stop outside the school and Bentall's Farm ought properly to be razed by fire on public health grounds as it was determined to be rather infested.

Its equally ancient occupant an elderly crone, nut brown of face and adequately wrinkled, whom we decided was quite obviously a witch - ignorant boys - was ejected forcibly and her home set ablaze: as was HI who had fought and lost a spirited battle to preserve this monument to the past and heritage. It is only now I can empathise with the poor old lady (Age does such things) and realise, belatedly how right was HI and how wrong the philistines in authority.

"Harry" Harden: a man who must have often despaired, as he was delegated to guide on careers.

"Tosser" Day: the word did not then suffer contemporaneous and unpleasant connotations, but rather, alluded to Mr Day's constant habit of throwing ends of chalksticks in the air and catching them: until his eagle eye spotted a boy dozing off or misbehaving at which point he projected the chalk with astounding accuracy at the miscreant's forehead!

Immaculately attired always, he insisted on wearing his gown: and as we learned, secreted in the wings were tennis balls: which were employed to belt pupils around the head, suddenly and without warning.

One could always distinguish those who had recently departed from Mr Day's classes: rather like a badge of honour, the sleepest and worst behaved would present with copious white dots on their visage.

Elf 'N Safety of today, would have suffered, probably a collective and terminal con-niption, if presented with the daily doings of the early 1950s!

Ugg Dickenson, as he became known, after a popular newspaper comic strip about cavemen. He was my form master in year

four and English master too: and what an English teacher.

Funny how distant memories return: Ugg insisted on correct and well defined grammar at all times. Having painstakingly inculcated into thick heads the difference between "Can I" and "May I", he then cleverly employed a practical example one day. One of my compatriots, a lad who had, as was common, fallen through the cracks of the old Grading Test and was wholly unsuited for academic pursuits, stuck up his hand and asked, "Can I be excused please, Sir?" Ugg responded in the affirmative. As the lad started to get up from his seat, "Ugg roared "Where do you think you are going?"

This entertaining carnival went on for some little time: until the boy, realising his error, changed his plea to "May I!" And, as he rushed from the room, Ugg spurred him on his way with "And I would hurry up if I were you lad; before you suffer an unpleasant accident!"

Shortly after this, the lad left, at circa 14, to become an apprentice with the old North Thames Gas Board: and probably became a later millionaire when British Gas was privatised! Such is life.

Ugg was also one of the brave souls who endeavoured to inculcate into unwilling skulls the concepts and ethos of Rugby Football. On one celebrated occasion the class was divided into the regulation two; however, one short on a side. Ugg stepped into the breach and played for the other side, here and there.

We protested, rather vociferously! "Unfair!" we echoed. "Why?" asked Ugg: "Because you are a master, Sir, and we are not allowed to tackle you!"

"You can indeed tackle me." quoth Ugg: famous last words. At the apposite moment, 14 boys leapt upon Ugg and squashed him deeply into the muddy pitch! From memory, I believe he had already passed the ball.

A muddy apparition arose and shouted just one word: "Detention!"

We were detained for all of five minutes, where Ugg trying not to laugh, gently admon-

ished us not to do it again: what a super sport he was.

Pip Thomas: whose antique Austin Seven seemed to emit as many noxious fumes as did its owner: Pip smoked dreadfully heavily: and between times, attempted to teach maths.

Willy Wildridge woodwork and technical drawing: a man who guarded precious tools and resources as a tigress does her cubs: whose favoured instrument of chastisement was an old long "T" Square: and a demon on the hockey field in the annual Staff v. Boys match, guaranteed to break a stick or two.

In these days of apparent endless plenty, it is so easy to forget how scarce were all resources back in the early 1950s: the school's fabric was little changed from the 1930s: and Willy's thereby archaic tools and equipment caused him to spend much time mending, repairing and reconditioning: and teaching excellent skills and valuable standards, simultaneously.

When teachers today complain about class sizes (40 pupils was then not uncommon) and "lack of resources" I am always minded to mentally compare.

As Harold MacMillan said "You've never had it so good!"

There were many more masters and characters: all admired and much respected in the mists of time.

In the early 1970s, dear old Jim Harrison came into my place of business and informed me about Mr Cloke's retirement dinner, to be held at the Cliffs Pavilion: I'm still most grateful to Jim. What a night it was, never to be forgotten. Old boys and masters present and past created a sort of reverse Diaspora, bomb-bursting in from all over the country. The place was so full, tables had to be set out on the balcony. Telegrams and greetings came from all over the globe.

When Henry Cloke stood up to speak, he treated us to his well remembered sardonic wit: years fell away and I was back in the school hall.

So often in my life, I have been re-

minded, practically, of the academic excellence of the school and the sheer breadth of my education: logic, for example, so often missing today, yet part and parcel of the school's classics curriculum and essential for deductive reasoning. A love of the English language, words and literature have served me excellently: mainly since for some 30 years, now, I have been writing; professional and technical items, analyses of economics and current affairs and in due course as professional retirement beckons, a greater focus on fiction.

Exposed to the modem mongrel language which masquerades as English, so sadly, now, my emotions are all too often a mix of sheer despair; and regret: that perhaps the ripest language in the World, is losing its cultural and literary heritage: despite this reality, I am able to cling like a limpet to those standards and rules so carefully taught me.

For this, above all, I shall be eternally grateful.

One final small memory: sweets and sugar were on ration: came off and went back on again, finally being de-rationed in 1953.

My late father was In. business in London as a provisions merchant and amongst many other wonderful things in the sprawling Aladdin's Cave of his warehouses, sold sweets in large volumes.

The entrepreneurial spirit started early for me! I persuaded Dad to "Supply" me with simple sweets, and naturally, at trade prices: mainly things like penny chews: remember those?

During breaktime, I "Retailed" these comestibles from a corner using an old battered briefcase. My elder brother joined in and served the fifth form.

We were unfortunately far too successful! Henry firmly told us to desist.

However, as is so often the way, out of the bad comes good: and the decision was taken, by the headmaster and senior staff, that the school ought properly to have a Tuck Shop.

An unused space was found alongside

the new gym and Daddy Smith became a shopkeeper.

Thanks to myself, I like to think.

Michael C Feltham
(1953 - 1958)

GODFREY W. FEY

Some thoughts in Retirement

One of the early memories of scholastic life at WHSB was something called "PT" (Physical Training). Hitherto the only exercise one received was in the playground at Junior School, (in my case, West Leigh School). No longer was it to running about making a noise outside the classroom, but having to change into PT kit wearing white sleeveless vests, with dark blue shorts usually three sizes too big, and brown plimsoles. In the early days at WHSB, this meant lots of running on the spot, or on a particular order from the PT Master, we were to run round touching all four wallbars and then form four lines called the "four teams". H.P. Crabtree was the PT Master who soon became everyone's favourite as he had "turned out" for the Saracen Rugby Club and, in addition, played for Essex County Cricket Club in the Summer "Hols". (I know all this as, when I asked him for his autograph, he half filled my autograph album with his prowess.) HPC's other attributes were spending many a PT period having our class bowling tennis balls down to him in the gym, or climbing up the wall bars on the command "Go", and back into our four teams. His other attribute that comes to mind was his ability to pin his favourite female entertainer - one, Gracie Fields's - photographs on to the wallbars.

On joining the army and reporting to Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, in Wiltshire, we did not have PT, but PE - Physical Education. This was putting on a white army vest and dark blue shorts that fitted under the arms to halfway down the legs. Other than running round in a circle this was the introduc-

tion to the squad except for myself and another lad who had been a student at St Paul's School, and had sung in the choir in Westminster Abbey, and another Grammar School lad who were conversant with running on the spot, leaping over the "horse" in the gym, and hanging down from the top of the wallbars. Armywise, we were treated to a five mile run into the country lanes of Wiltshire at the double if we did not sing songs at the top of our voice. This had something to do with "clearing our lungs."

Week two was running on the spot and knees bend - knees stretch routines. There was little variety in getting oneself fit or being toughened up. There was a "push pull" exercise that consisted of running on the spot then, on the command "Push", and tried to push another recruit nearby over and/or we stopped in pairs for "Pull" which was to pull the other fellow sufferer down on the ground. The patter that was put out by the PT Instructor went as follows, (I kid you not but, as I recorded his words on paper I recently came across.)

"Right then, you lot. And I don't give a monkey's 'oo it is, yer puts yer 'ands round yer partner's neck.... not yet yer fool, Wot you want to do, ask 'im t' marry yer? Yer pal does the same. Right? On the command "Pull" the Squad will pull. When I say "Push" yer puts yer 'ands on 'is shoulders and push. Right? PUSH. Now PULL. Pick yerselves up yer dosey lot of 'alf-wits. Now PUSH. PUSH 'ARD. PULL. PUSH PULL PUSH PULL. Yer like a dosey lot of bleeding school girls. Right, termorrow yer on telegraph poles." We wondered what this was going to be like. We soon found out. We assembled after breakfast in PT kit and went to another part of camp, where we noticed about a couple of dozen telegraph poles laying all over the field. The first exercise - if that is the right word - was to go to the nearest telegraph pole and stand facing other recruits the other side of the pole. On the command "Lift" we tried lifting up the pole. One part of the squad had a few "heavies" to lift the pole - I and my chum from St Paul's School - the remainder, who soon earned the soubriquet of the "Puny Pla-

toon" struggled to lift their end from the ground. On the command "Lower" we dropped our end down and took a pace back. The same exercise was repeated with a better "mix" of lifters, and began to feel pleased with our efforts!

The second "Telegraph Pole Practice Day" we were better at it and, by the end of the week we were getting the hang of it. After ten days we began to ache a bit but felt that we were achieving something than seven days earlier. By the end of the second week, we were able to lie down on the grass looking upwards then, standing up along the length of the pole and raised it to arm's length. A postscript to this exercise on what can be done if one tried hard. Came a week later, and a new batch of recruits were introduced into this "toughening up" form of torture, the badinage between our squad and the new arrivals is best left out of this account. Was all this type of exercise necessary? The answer is "Yes". A few years later around Christmas time, 1945, we were hastily sent down to the Ardennes to halt the German push northwards. A battle that we and the Americans won. We pounded the life out of the Nazi Army by our lads loading and firing very heavy 180-pounder shells. A suitable reward for all the telegraph pole exercises! Towards the end of the Ardennes Battle I was ordered to go back as far as Liege and stand in a hastily dug slit trench out of the snow and, if I saw any movement by the German army, to radio back in code to HQ and bring down a barrage of very heavy shells. As good luck would have it, there was no counterattack. As bad had it, it was the coldest, loneliest, most miserable Christmas I have ever experienced! But I had really won the battle in finding a second use for telegraph poles!

Looking back over the last forty-odd years one would have expected to have met many an Old Westcliffian somewhere in the world. This was particularly so when for years there was conscription followed by National Service in fighting the King's - and Queen's - enemies but I met only two old chums. Of course, two

thirds of the OWs would have gone into the Royal Navy or the Royal Air Force, some willingly, others less so.

On only two occasions in World War Two and the uneasy peace afterwards did I come in contact with an OW. One was in Durban, South Africa, when the troop ship I was on docked to take on water, mail and supplies. (We had spent the previous two and a half months dodging the Nazi U-boats.) Crossing the road in our "Baden Powell 1900-type pith helmets" and khaki long-short trousers and boots. (The shorts covered the knees at dusk to avoid the mosquitoes) a voice called out "Hiya, Godfrey what kept you?" He was my year at WHSB and his parents owned a pub if I remember correctly. The meeting was short lived. A never-ending convoy of vehicles passed between on there was northwards.

Another QW took me as part of a convoy across to invade Italy as the war against Field Marshall Rommel and his Afrika Korps was drawing to a close. He also took part in the D-Day invasion a year later, but his story must wait for another day.

The second occasion was about a week or ten days after landing on the beaches at Arrowmanches on D-Day. Things were going well and we were advancing North-eastwards towards Caen. A voice came up on the radio that he and his tanks were being "bogged down outside Caen. And could I help?" The voice came from not only a chum in Form 5 Arts, but his voice reminded me of one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in the late 1930s. I arranged for a "creeping barrage" that is to say a hell of a lot of artillery shells that every half-a-minute moved on some short distance. It saved his day, but I never heard any more from him, and I had a sickly feeling that one of my 25-pounder shells could, I say could, have blasted him and his tanks to kingdom come. It left a nasty taste in the mouth.

About ten to fifteen years later when I was commanding a Company of infantry a lad was brought up in front of me for some misdemeanour. Before I heard what the error of his ways were, he smiled at me and said, "I used to go to your school, Sir." This is not how

petty offences are usually conducted. I asked for the name of the School, and he gave me the correct answer. "Westcliff High School for Boys, Sir." Fortunately the penny dropped. There used to be a small magazine called "The Quest" and I had received my copy a few days later and had left it on the table for magazines and papers in the ante-room. He had obviously seen it and assumed that his opening gambit would enable him to be "let off" without even a caution. He was disillusioned. He was awarded twenty-eight days in the Guard Room -commonly referred to as the "House of Correction" but he never served his punishment. The bounder had "opped over the wall" on the second night and was never seen again."

Proof positive, he was never an Old Westcliffian!

DR E.C. FINCH

Thank you for your letter about the Old Westcliffian Association. Here I am, thankfully still alive and kicking, and still at the same address! I would very much like to continue to be informed about the Association. Now that I think of it I realise I may not have heard from them for a little while. You can use my email address efinch@tcd.ie (as above) to send the newsletter. Please send me a couple, say, of the latest issues, as I think I may not have received them.

So please do not cleanse me out from the database - even if I have been only once to the O W dinner! That was in the school well over ten years ago, and I remember meeting you again then. I haven't been back to the area for several years now; my mother died in 1987 and my father in 2000, after which I had to sell their bungalow in Kings Road.

I continue to enjoy lecturing in Physics in Trinity College here in Dublin. Of course, now that I'm 65 it means that I've entered 'extra time' in the College, as it were. I'll be retiring in a year or so, and then maybe I'll travel over to renew my contacts with the Old

Westcliffians.

Jean, my wife, is still teaching flute, recorder and piano in Alexandra College, which is one of the Dublin schools. Our elder daughter has a research lectureship type of position in German in Leeds University, and the younger one lives near us and is a veterinary nurse.

I'm sending this by snailmail as you didn't include any email address in your letter. I'm looking forward to hearing the latest about the old school and the old boys.

With best wishes,
Eric

COLIN FORD

I have calculated that I joined the First Form at WHSB in 1953. However, I left in the 2nd year to go to Prince Rupert School, a boarding school in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, which was set up shortly after the end of WWII for the children of military personnel serving in Germany. I then returned to WHSB for the Fifth & Sixth forms. Thus, my WHSB dates are: 1953 - 1955 and 1957 - 1960, and this year is the 50th anniversary of my leaving the school.

I joined the RAF straight from school, became a pilot, flew helicopters, travelled the world, and eventually retired in 1996.

My WHSB contemporaries include Geoff (Sid) Thompson, Malcolm Hooper, Ian Rule, Chris Sharples, Peter Dooley, Chris Knight, Martin Clarke, Mike Wardle and Richard Lower.

Yours sincerely,
Colin

ROGER GLADIN

Thank you for my first OWA news letter (for 2010). Apologise for not writing sooner but time slips by and also a bit of news.

A day after receiving the news letter I had a phone call from John Loftin an OW who had read your article about me in the news letter. We chatted for some time and ex-

changed home addresses as he has no e-mail. I have written but so far received no reply. Through your help I am in regular contact with Brian Cullen in NZ. John and Brian were in the same class "C" while I was in class "D"and our rooms adjoined too. I have told Brian and John of my contact with each so that they can communicate if they wish.

After enquiries to WHS which they couldn't help me with, I wrote to Louth Library to ask if they could shed any light on a summer school farming camp (with WHS) near to Louth. They answered and offered ideas but knew no more. I think I have discovered the site an isolated small housing estate near RAF Manby, Middlegate Meadows, with road names of RAF fighter planes. I have blindly written to one of the houses explaining my curiosity but have received no reply. I thanked and told the Museum.

Just in case I haven't told you (terrible memory)I have found the site of my other "camp"Maids Morton near Buckingham.....nice houses now.
Thank you for everything

Best regards
Roger

LORD DAVID GOLD

(Echo Friday February 11, 2011, by Jasmin McDermott)



(David Gold - lawyer is made a lord)

Lawyer David joins the House of Lords

A former Westcliff schoolboy is celebrating after being elevated to the House of Lords.

David Gold, who became Lord Gold of Westcliff-on-Sea at a ceremony at the Palace of Westminster, will help to examine and scrutinise proposed Government legislation.

Lord Gold, 59, is the third Essex appointment to the House of Lords in the last 12 months.

Angela Smith - former MP for Basildon was made Baroness Smith of Basildon and Sue Nye from Leigh, Gordon Brown's former aide, was made Lady Nye.

Lord Gold, 59, who lives in Thorpe Bay, with his wife, Sharon, has been working at prestigious London law firm Herbert Smith since he left university in 1973 where he has been a senior partner until he retires from the post at the end of April,

Speaking from his office in London, Lord Gold said: "I am delighted and honoured by this appointment.

It was a delightful day when I became a lord and there is much I want to do.

I was approached to become a working peer following my membership of David Cameron's scrutiny committee on the expenses in 2009 and my later role as chairman of the Conservative Party's disciplinary committee."

Born in a Westcliff nursing home, Lord Gold was a student at Westcliff High School for Boys before studying at the London School of Economics. Among his community roles, Lord Gold was president of the Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation for nine years and can be regularly seen cycling along the seafront at the weekends.

He will be splitting his time between working as a peer as well as working within the US Department of Justice advising on complex disputes. He plans to set up his own consultancy firm.

He added: "I have a lot of family and friends who live in Southend and we like living by the sea. It is a good change from the cut and thrust of the city.

I have a lot that I still want to achieve. I am looking forward to participating in the scrutiny of legislation the Government is seeking to pass this year."

R. JOHN GREGORY

Thank you for your letter regarding the Old Westcliffian Association newsletter. I had certainly missed receiving copies for some time.

Being computer ignorant, the use of emails leaves me uninformed. I regret not making any effort to overcome this lack of knowledge but now - at 85 years - together with loss of memory of all but vital current happenings, it seems pointless to start learning.

We established the above business in 1961 and we currently celebrate 50 years of successful trading. At long last I have decided to sell all six holiday flats and retire from the part-time work that I still undertake. Pity I didn't get around to this a few years ago before the recession engulfed the economy and property sales became rare.

My memories of being evacuated with the school to Belper are vivid. I was billeted on a Farm at the top of Belper Lane with my close school friend Mike Power who now lives at Buckfastleigh, Devon, and I am still in contact with one of my foster sisters who no longer lives on the farm.

Within the last few years my wife & I decided to spend a week or so in Derbyshire. When looking for accommodation, I discovered the Farm now offered Bed & Breakfast accommodation. We, of course, booked and I was delighted to have the very same bedroom that Mike & I had - but which had been very much refurbished!

I enclose a cheque for £25 to cover cost of postal delivery of your newsletter, which should allow a copy to reach me for a year or two. If I haven't snuffed it - I'll renew later.

Regrettably it is too far from here for me to travel all the way to Westcliff so I will not be attending the reunion dinners. Please give my regards to any old, old, old ex Belper boys attending.

All best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
John

NEIL HARMAN

I am a proud Old Boy (1968-73) who has rather lost touch with the Old Westcliffians and would like to get back in contact again. I seem to recall that the reunion dinner was in September, so I'm probably too late for this year 2010 but would like to be placed on any list for circulars, news etc. I currently work for The Times was tennis correspondent and have been in journalism since I left school in 1973, to head for the Evening Echo (seems like a long time ago). If you could let me have any information on the school and the Old Westcliffians, I'd be delighted to receive it.

Sincere regards,
Neil

PHIL LANE

(Standard, Friday January 7, 2011)



**Former Westcliff High School PE teacher in
Who's Who 2011**

THE Leigh-based head of the British Paralympic Association has been included in this year's Who's Who.

Phil Lane, 57, of Leigh Cliff Road, joins Olympic gold medal-winning cyclist Bradley Wiggins, 30, and former Paralympic swimmer Christopher Holmes in the 2011 edition of the book, which lists more than 33,000 people who have made notable achievements.

Father-of-four Mr Lane, who was made an OBE in 2009, is a former PE teacher at Westcliff High School for Boys and was a

rugby coach at clubs including Saracens and Southend before joining ParalympicsGB in 2001.

He said: "It was quite a surprise. It's one of those things you don't expect to happen, but it's a real pleasure."

In the 2008 Beijing Games Mr Lane led Britain's para-lympic athletes to second place in the medal table, and is hoping for similar success or one better in London 2012.

Mr Lane said: "We are working very hard and there are lots of new young athletes coming through, so we are hopeful we will put on a very good show."

MICHAEL LOADER

(From Roy Loader - brother of Michael)

Michael was officially diagnosed with Alzheimer's just over three years ago although I had noticed problems since about 2002. He made me his Attorney in 2005. With the help of outside agencies, he was just about able to maintain independent living in his home in Buxton until it became obvious earlier last year that he really needed more care. When I suggested a move to Hampshire to be closer to some of his siblings, his local Social Services and GP all thought that to be the best. We are fortunate in having an excellent Care Home very close to this address. They happened to have a room available when I enquired and so, last July he returned to the South of England.

Michael taught at Westcliff from 1954 or 5. I am unsure as to when he moved on. Our father died in 1959 and it was decided that along with my mother and eldest sister we would move from the green fields of Somerset, with its truly international County Cricket Team, to Essex. What was even worse [hindsight is a wonderful thing!] I joined the 4th year at WHS. I survived being "Holy Joe's brother" until 1962 gathering sufficient "0" levels for an Old Boy of WHS to offer me employment. At the time

it seemed a blessed relief! Nostalgia is an affliction of the salt and pepper brigade and so I would like to learn more of my friends of that time. Please, therefore, add me to the Association's database. I will pass on the news to Michael for as long as his health permits. His long term memory is still not too bad.

Michael has had Christmas cards from a few of his old colleagues and widows thereof. Unfortunately no addresses have been included. I have a number of his address books but I doubt he has maintained up-to-date records for about 10 years. On his behalf, I would like to contact as many as I can if only to explain why he has failed to keep in touch. I am hoping that the OWA may provide a source of such information.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Roy Loader

BRIAN MEDDLE

I attended Westcliff 1960 - 1967. I spent 6 months working in my family cockle business while I looked for a job and finally at the beginning of 1968 I started work in the Jewellery and Allied trades division of Johnson Matthey in Hatton Garden, London. I spent some 5+ years there and then, looking for something more adventurous had various sales jobs ranging from selling, Life assurance, accident insurance and even orthopaedic beds. In the middle 70's I again worked for some time in the family business and it was at this time that I joined St. Margarets Lodge.

I then worked for a local air compressor firm as office manager for a few years. At this time (1980) I divorced my wife Carol (we were married in 1972 and had 3 boys). I kept our 3 boys! The same year the firm went bankrupt and I took a job with Cheale Meats of Brentwood (an abattoir) as export manager, where I stayed for over 6 years. During this time (in 1981) I met Michaela an Aus-

trian girl and we married the following year. The same year I started working part time as a taxi driver to catch up with the finances after the divorce and found a job that I really enjoyed! In 1987 I gave up working in the abbattoir and became fully self employed. I stayed as a self employed taxi driver for nearly 25 years and at its height my business owned 6 cabs and half of a taxi circuit. In later years I sold off some of my assets and finally at the age of 57 the rest of them and semi retired to Austria where I have lived since October 2005. Next year 2012 Michaela and I will hopefully celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. We have a boy Glyn (who also attended Westcliff) and a girl Julia.

Here in Austria we own a B&B in the Alps and I also teach English in 4 primary schools and a High school. I have also re-found my love of painting (discovered at Westcliff) and have completed over 30 water-colours, photos of which can be seen on our Facebook page.

I would love to hear from any of my old school companions - they can contact me by logging on to our website : www.haussonnblick.com where they will find all my contact details.

Brian

DICK POWELL

I was pleased to receive the latest newsletter. I am not quite sure about costs but believe it is £5 for postal delivery.

I enclose a cheque for £100 which I trust will ensure that I continue to receive copies by post.

I would love to come to the reunion dinner. However after a couple of small strokes I am now fairly disabled and only walk with difficulty. There is no way I can get from here to Westcliff as I no longer drive. Anyway I send my best wishes for the occasion.

Sincerely
Dick Powell

BERNARD RILEY

I was pleased to speak to Terry and re-establish contact.

My wife is writing this letter as my sight is poor. I am 100 years old (101 in March 2011) but still manage to get around. I enclose a cheque of £10 for 2 years expenses.

Best wishes
Bernard Riley

DENIS SHERRINGHAM

Please find enclosed, my cheque for £50.00 in full payment for a seat at the table, for the OWA Annual Reunion Dinner, 17th. September 2010, together with application form, duly completed.

Will you please treat the balance as a donation to the OWA? Thank you.

Whilst writing, may I say how surprised, and amused I was to see that you had printed my previous letter, in the 2010 Newsletter, especially with reference to my old nickname, at school, of "Duke".

This all came about by characters from the ITMA ("It's That Man Again"- Tommy Handley) radio show of the war years, and beyond. My form mate, Jeff Oakley, was "Lefty", and, another, Geoff Bentley was, if I remember correctly, "The Earl" (pronounced, US fashion, "The Oil"!).

After my school days, I joined Barclays Bank in 1945. Getting fed up with it, and not wanting to go into the army, upon conscription, I volunteered for 7 years in the Royal Navy, in June 1947. I was demobbed in May, 1954. I made contact with the Old Westcliffian RFC, and started training with them later in the summer. Imagine my surprise when I heard all my old mates, saying, "The Dook's" back! Once again, I was, and remained, ever after, "The Dook"!

Sorry to burden you, with all that, but I wanted to put the record straight, in case later generations thought that I really was a "Duke"!

Finally, may I please congratulate, the

Chairman, A.J.Baker M.A., upon his article, "Aspects Of Our World, Today". I had become to think that I, alone, held such an opinion! How refreshing to see that common sense still prevails, even if one dare not express it, in today's world!

Looking forward to, once more, seeing everybody on 17th September, 2010.

Yours very sincerely,
Denis Sherringham

ANTHONY SHORT

My son qualified as a medic from Guys and Tommy's. He obtained his Royal College of Medicine membership and then moved to specialise in anaesthetics. He takes his Finals later this year. He is presently working at the Cardiff.

I believe he is keen to stay in touch and does come 'hone' from time to time.

I hope Westcliff High School for Boys continues to prosper under the able leadership of Mr Baker for whom we had great respect. If you are in touch please convey our best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Michael Short.

ADRIAN SIDWELL

I have your note of February regarding the OWA, which, as with all other communications since I left in 1969, had been sent to my mother's (ie my 'old') address for continuity. As my life has taken me around the world over the years, this seemed appropriate, as my mother still resides in the same house we moved into in Thames Drive in December 1960.

My mother is now a comparatively sprightly 86, and whilst happy to remain as a post box for me, the OWA is, I think, the last organisation to still use this address for me. Whilst she is a competent 'silver surfer', I am

obviously 'online' and deal with most things in this fashion these days.

Brief summary of my last 40 odd years:-

Graduated from Birmingham University in 1972 - BSc in Civil Engineering

Pursued career in Civil Engineering, becoming a Chartered Engineer, (now BSc, CEng, MICE, MCIWEM, CWEM, FCIHT), working principally in municipal infrastructure, and providing developer advice. I have worked for local government, consultants and contractors, and freelanced, in Essex, Yorkshire, London, Sussex, Kent, Bristol and overseas in Abu Dhabi, Antigua and Sri Lanka (a very interesting UNDP/WTO project).

I am currently a Technical Director, looking after civil engineering activities, in the southwest regional offices of international consultant Waterman, based in Bristol and Cardiff.

I have pursued external interests principally in Scouting in my younger days, rugby around the world until having to retire following a serious neck injury, and classic/unusual/modified vehicles, having owned/built/restored/raced a variety over the years. The collection is down to about 5 now, of which only one is currently roadworthy!

There have been numerous highlights from these hobbies, but the most notable are probably playing for a 'Gulf Select XV' in Dubai, against an 'England' team for Alton RFC, being invited to display my 'full-house' hot rod on Lord March's front lawn at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, and driving my 40 year old Aston Martin at over 100mph down the Mulsanne Straight at Le Mans, with 250 other Astons to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their Le Mans victory.

The car interest led to the establishment of a classic car restoration business in 2000, which is still functioning on a part-time basis (www.autoinstrumentservices.com), specialising in the repair, recalibration and refurbishment of classic vehicle instruments.

During this time I was married for 23 years to Rosemary, (whose family was from Essex, but we met in the Gulf! However, we

may well have crossed paths before as she did the teas, her father was Chairman, and her brothers played, for Woodford RFC, who I played against whilst playing for Southend RFC - oops sorry!) We divorced in 2004. We had no children.

My mother still lives in Thames Drive, my father died in 1995, and my brother Neil (also an WHSB old boy) emigrated to Australia with his wife and daughter in the late '90's.

I moved to my current address in 'Somerset' (The Firs, Silver Street, Holcombe, Nr Radstock, Avon, BA3 5EP) with my partner Deb in 2007. We have no children.

Apologies that 'life' has precluded my active attention/response to OWA information over the years, but hope the above is of interest, and that my details can be updated on your database.

Kind Regards
Adrian Sidwell
WHSB 1963 - 1969

DAVID SIMMONS

This is in reply to your letter received today - I don't know how I fell off your email database, but I obviously did. I am happy to receive OWA news by email.

If you're ever short of a speaker at the annual dinner, I'd be happy to oblige: Oxford graduate, former BBC Radio One DJ, Radio Four science writer and presenter, globe-trotting executive with American-owned Worldwide Television News etc. There's a fuller biog. on my old BFBS website www.rockola.net

Regards
David

NIGEL SOUSTER

On the one hand it is alarming to remember how many years ago I was happy at my

'alma mater', particularly playing a lot of rugby.

When visiting my mother recently in Chalkwell (now in her 90s) and my brother Martin, I met with their near neighbour Jim Harrison, who shared with me his collection of school rugby team photos from those years!

And, on the other hand, I am very fortunate to be still enjoying a very active business and social life.

I have been in practice as a Chartered Accountant for 40 years - 20 years as a partner at PriceWaterhouse in London and around the world - and now with my own professional company, CFO Solutions, acting as Finance Director for a number of companies here in the West of England. (There is a picture of this ageing CA on the company's website!)

Whilst I gave up playing rugby for the office team a few years ago, I still sail whenever and wherever I can, and frequently visit our house in France.

With best wishes to all alumni - I still see David Gorrod regularly - and my thanks to you and the OWA committee.

Your sincerely
Nigel

NEIL THUMPSTON

Thank you for your letter dated February 2011. I would like to remain in contact with the Old Westcliffian Association and look forward to receiving the newsletter at the e-mail address below.

If anybody is interested, I retired as a business analyst with Ford Motor Company in 2005 and now spend as much time as I can in the South of France. I knew 'A' level French would come in handy one day!

I believe my brother, Richard Thumpston, has written to you separately.

Yours sincerely,
Neil Philip Thumpston

1958/59 RUGBY TEAM

Vic Hales found this gruesome set of mug shots.

Back row (left to right): Hiller, McCatty, Bell, Harvy, Saines, Souster, Atwell, Beard, Stretton, HALES, Hewitt.
Front Row (l-r): Mr Webber, Emery, Upton, Mr Cloke (Headmaster), Bosely, Drage, Thompson, Mr Harrison.



DAVID WACOGNE

As a matter of possible interest I had a thoroughly enjoyable career as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, working from offices locally and with clients both near and nationwide.

I retired in May 2004 and, as is often the case, do not know where I found the time to go to work! Holidays, grandchildren, Church, gardening, 41 Club and caravanning take up a lot of time. I am also a trustee of Southend Blind Welfare Organisation with all that involves including helping with the charity shop in Hamlet Court Road. My wife is also involved and in addition we 'man' the RNLI Gift Shop at the end of the pier once a month!

Yours sincerely,
David

STEVEN WILLIAMS

Always interesting to read about what others are up to. After a stint in the Essex Police I travelled for several years in sundry exotic places around the world, then after a brief return to the police, I married, now have 3 teenage girls.

Currently we spend most of our time in New Zealand, where I am now training as a clinical psychologist, after a number of years working across different mental health settings in various capacities. Fortunately the area where we are does not tend to experience earthquakes on the scale of the recent Christchurch earthquakes in late 2010 / early 2011. however the country as a whole has been rather shocker by the scale of the damage and the loss of life.

My regards to those who remember me!

Sincerely
Steve Williams

KENNETH ZUCKER

I retired as a Circuit Judge in 2005. I keep in

touch with a number of OWs. In particular in December 1951 'Spike' Limbird (our class teacher) organised a dinner for our Five Arts class in the school dining hall. Many members of that class have maintained contact through periodic reunions over the years. Our next reunion in November 2011 will mark the sixtieth year since that first dinner . Is this a record!

Best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Kenneth Zucker

11. OLD WESTCLIFF LODGE NO. 5456

The Worshipful Master for 2010 - 2011 is Greg Bermon with Bernard Arscott and Chris Kirk giving him excellent support in their positions as Wardens.

The Lodge is open to all Old Westcliffians who have been pupils at the School, or who are or have been staff or governors at the School.

Anyone who would like more information about the Lodge or Freemasonry in general should contact the Lodge Secretary, Tony Lister, on telephone, 01702 558625.

J.H.

12. WESTCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

So far season 2010-11 has been fantastic for the whole club but one tinged with sadness. At the time of writing (mid-February) the 1st XV is leading London 1 North by 17 points and though some clubs below us have games in hand, they will need to work hard to get up with us.

At the same time we will have to work hard to keep our position every club in the league have their sights on us. Luckily the

players know it and under the guidance of director of rugby Bob Smith, they have kept their focus.

We have only been beaten once when we slipped up to a late try by Thurrock. Other than that, while not plain sailing, the season has gone fairly smoothly and we have had some very good wins, notably home and away against a very powerful Sidcup side.

What are Sidcup doing in a north of the Thames league? It is all to do with the pyramid structure. They and Old Colfeians were moved from London 1 South because there were no more north of the river sides to go into our league and there were more clubs in and coming in to our sister league to the south.

As usual, we maintain a healthy link with the School with boys playing for both clubs and many Old Boys coming to us to play their rugby. The leading try scorer in the league at the moment is Paul Radley (WHSB 1996-2003), whose pace on the wing is phenomenal and whose ability to get through the smallest gap is a treat to watch.

Others from the School in the team include Sam Newbury, the skipper and Elliott Harvey, while running the line is that stalwart of the club Nick Crowe (son of R.A.B. "Jimmy" Crowe) and trying to retire from playing at any level but failing is the club chairman, Rick Compton.

We want to see the chickens before they are hatched and there is still a fair way to go before we even sniff promotion. If we do get it we will be on the lower rung of the National leagues in London and South East 3 South and there are some powerful clubs waiting and some longer travelling - to Havant and Bracknell for a start. It will be a big step.

Our boast is that we are the highest placed purely amateur club in the Eastern Counties. Going up will mean a hard look at that tag but the vast majority of us hope it stays if at all possible.

The Lions XV are already division 1 champions of that most useful of set-ups, the BL Office Furniture Merit Table which gives

teams other than 1st teams the chance to sample league rugby. In fact the Lions are unbeaten in almost three years and have racked up more than 700 points this season.

With the A XV and the Extra A XV leading or riding high in their divisions, all three teams have suffered recently with opposition crying off late, presumably preferring to give away the points and suffer an automatic 39-0 loss.

The B XV or fifth team has been started again and is the ideal point for entry to the club for those with no ambitions to play very high. It was the B XV that renewed contacts with our long time opponents of years past, Bishop Stortford, though they had to play their 4th team and found them a bit too street-wise though they were not crushed. If the 1st XV does get promoted, they will meet Stortford next season.

With almost all the 1st XV squad having come through the club youth system it is encouraging to see that the younger players, right down to the Under 6's are enthusiastically playing as often as they can and they have no qualms about turning up for a training morning if there is no game that Sunday.

It was the Colts XV that travelled the furthest this season. Eliminated from the National Colts Cup they moved into the National Plate competition, notched up a number of victories but finally fell 19-15 to a real name from the past, Devonport Services.

The Under-17's took the Essex County Cup for their age group and others of our teams are still in the hunt for silverware.

Max Crumpton played for the England Under 18 team in a win over Ireland and Harry Hudson and Jack Jones are in the England Under-19 Colleges squad. India Harvey, now with Thurrock Ladies since the demise of our girls section but very much a member of Westcliff, played for England Ladies Under-20's College team against Scotland.

To see our field packed with youngsters laying their games as far as the eye can see is one of the great sights and while not all of them progress to senior rugby, many do and we are now reaping the reward of planning

and setting up a youth section.

As usual the social life of the club is lively with sponsor/vice-president lunches at every home league match where players of various vintages meet for a beer. There have been darts evenings, quiz nights even a poker tournament and of course the 500 Club is running strongly.

As to the clubhouse itself, the small or players bar has been refurbished and has been named in honour of Andy Riches, who moved from rugby at the School to playing for the Old Boys and became an official and a director of the club.

Sadly soon after moving to a new job in South Africa he was killed in a motor accident at a notorious danger spot. The club was well represented at the funeral and many members of the Southend club who had played against him were also there.

Also in that bar is a plaque commemorating Lieutenant Aaron Lewis one of our players who was killed in Afghanistan.

It is a thriving club, a lively club and we are delighted to see so many of the past generation attending matches and lunches. If you do turn up you are likely to be sharing the balcony or touchline with the likes of Chris Sharples, Roland Darvell, Mike Turner, Brian Scarsbrook, Phil Polatch, Jim Harrison, Tony Fayers, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Dave Evans, Ian Croxford (if he can tear himself away from Arsenal) and some who look on that lot as mere youngsters.

I usually finish this annual review by inviting you to attend at some time and this time it is no different but if the weather is too sharp for you, the club is open on Saturdays from lunchtime throughout the summer and while you will see no rugby, you will have someone to talk to while you have a beer.

It is a cracking club to belong to and at £30, a year's social membership is a bargain.

Geoff Sawyer, press officer WRFC

13. EDITOR

Thank you once again to all members who have sent in reports for this year's O.W. Newsletter.

We look forward to our Annual Reunion Dinner at the School, on Friday 16th September 2011.

Very best wishes.
Jim Harrison

14. (i) THE OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in 1926 to enable pupils to have a means of keeping in touch with staff and colleagues.

The Annual Newsletter forms a good link between members at home and abroad.

The AGM is usually held in June/July at the School. This year it is Thursday 14th July.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner is held on the third Friday in September.

We welcome a growing membership and our Honorary Secretary will be pleased to welcome new members on receipt of an application or on the application form below.

J.H.

.... ✂

14. (ii) The Old Westcliffian Association

Application for Life Membership Subscription	£10
Life Members' Tie	£6
70th Anniversary Tie	£6
Cufflinks in Presentation Box	£12

(Please make cheques payable to '*Old Westcliffian Association*')

NAME:

YEARS DATES AT SCHOOL:

ADDRESS:

.....

..... **POSTCODE:**

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, AN ADDITIONAL £5 SHOULD BE SENT FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTER MAILINGS.

PLEASE RETURN TO: ELLIOTT WARD
Honorary Secretary, OWA
137 KILN ROAD
BENFLEET, ESSEX, SS7 1SH
Tel: 01702 554697
Mobile: 07941 187894 (*preferred*)
E-mail: owa@ashphoenix.co.uk

